

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

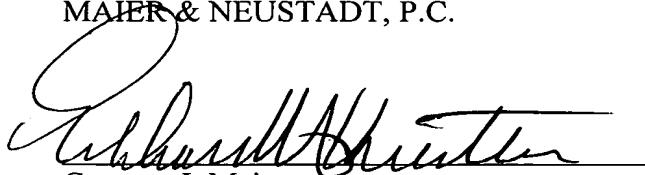
Claims 9, 16, and 17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-8 and 10-15 are canceled by the present amendment.

This application is a divisional application of parent application Serial No. 10/314,989, filed on December 10, 2002. The present divisional application is submitted to present Claims 9, 16, and 17 that were withdrawn from consideration in the parent application. Moreover, by the present Preliminary Amendment, Claim 16 is amended to correct a minor informality and the specification is amended to include a Cross-reference to Related Applications section. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Eckhard H. Kuesters
Registration No. 28,870
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
GJM/EHK/RFF/ys
I:\ATTY\RFF\24S\249264\249264-PRELAME.DOC